

BALANCED POLYMORPHISM SELECTED BY GENETIC VERSUS INFECTIOUS HUMAN DISEASE*

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■ **Abstract** The polymorphisms within the human genome include several functional variants that cause debilitating inherited diseases. An elevated frequency of some of these deleterious mutations can be explained by a beneficial effect that confers a selective advantage owing to disease resistance in carriers of such mutations during an infectious disease outbreak. We here review plausible examples of balanced functional polymorphisms and their roles in the defense against pathogens. The genome organization of the chemokine receptor and *HLA* gene clusters and their influence on the HIV/AIDS epidemic provides compelling evidence for the interaction of infectious and genetic diseases in recent human history.

INTRODUCTION

Charles Darwin proposed that disease plays a role in the relative survival of species. However, Haldane proposed the concept that selection by infectious disease influences the frequency in genes that defend against pathogenic microbes (47). Although this concept is widely accepted today, there are few clear examples of infectious disease affecting allele frequencies, as this area of population genetics and evolution is particularly difficult to study in model systems. In addition, because the selective forces act over many generations and our knowledge of the history of human populations and infectious disease is incomplete over the last 10,000–100,000 years, these events are hard to reconstruct.

Natural selection for resistance to a pathogen can lead to the increase in frequency of alleles that are otherwise deleterious. An allele that reduces the risk of infection or pathogenesis by an infectious agent would generally involve a structural or regulatory alteration of a host protein. When that protein is involved in a vital function, then the resistant individual may acquire a deleterious phenotype. If

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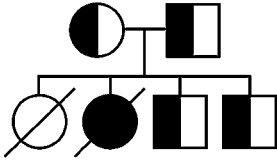
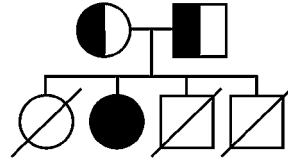
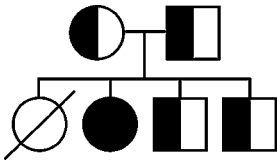
A. Heterozygote Advantage**C. Recessive Protective Allele****B. Dominant Protective Allele**

Figure 1 Models for disease allele segregation. (A) Heterozygote advantage. An allele provides a selective advantage in the heterozygote but has a severe or lethal outcome in alternative homozygotes. In this situation, the frequency of heterozygotes gradually increases in the population. The *HbS* and other globin alleles protective effects for malaria are good examples. Circles, females; squares, males; half-filled symbols, carriers (heterozygotes); filled symbols, homozygotes; slashes, individuals who have died. (B) Dominant neutral allele. The allele providing the selective advantage for infectious disease is not deleterious. In this situation, homozygotes for the allele can accumulate and reach fixation in cases of a strong selective pressure. The *FY* null allele protective effect for malaria is an example of this model. (C) Recessive allele. In this situation, protection is only provided for homozygous individuals, and the variant is not deleterious to heterozygotes. *CCR5-Δ32* protection against AIDS infection is an example of this model.

protection from infection is a stronger selective force than the negatively selected phenotype, the deleterious allele will accumulate in the population as long as the infectious agent is epidemic. If heterozygous individuals are resistant to disease and homozygous individuals are severely compromised, heterozygote advantage is observed (Figure 1). If the infectious agent remains in the environment, selection to favor the deleterious allele continues.

Heterozygote advantage may play a role in the appearance of a large number of common severe genetic diseases (sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis, Tay-Sachs disease, and others). Recessive diseases fit the heterozygote advantage paradigm best. However, owing to historical fluctuations in the effective size of human populations and the known propensity for restricted mating, recessive deleterious alleles may reach elevated frequencies as a result of genetic drift (141). Recessive alleles manifest a burden on the population only when they reach a high enough

frequency to result in the appearance of homozygous individuals. For example, at an allele frequency of 10%, a recessive lethal allele results in only a 1% increase in mortality. In the absence of clear evidence for selective maintenance of rare alleles, making a distinction between selective influence and genetic drift is difficult.

Malaria Resistance Genes

The selection for resistance to malaria has been extensively studied, and overwhelming evidence that *Plasmodium* has shaped the human genome exists. The best-studied allele is the *HbS* allele of the β -globin gene (60). This allele is responsible for sickle cell disease in heterozygotes and sickle cell anemia in homozygotes. Sickle cell anemia is a very serious disease, resulting in characteristically misshaped red blood cells (51). The *HbS* allele is quite common in populations of African origin, particularly in regions where malaria is endemic. Sickle cell disease anemia results in several rare, mostly late onset, pathologies, including stroke, sudden unexplained death, and acute chest syndrome (1). Therefore, practically all carriers survive to reproductive age, and there is no significant reduction in fertility. Heterozygotes often give birth to newborns affected with anemia. Although current treatments can extend the lifespan of affected individuals, in the absence of therapy, the disease is lethal. In addition to sickle cell disease, α - and β -thalassemia alleles are common in malaria endemic regions and are also thought to arise as a result of malaria selection (34).

The HbS protein was one of the first human disease proteins characterized. Research on the gene also provided early examples of disease allele identification, genetic testing (66), and linkage disequilibrium analysis. In 1949, Haldane proposed that the allele might have arisen in response to a selective agent, and he proposed malaria as that agent (47). Population data supports this finding, as do biochemical studies on the interaction of the falciparum malaria parasite with red blood cells (35). Thus, HbS remains the best-known example of a homozygous lethal allele providing a heterozygote advantage.

The *FY/Duffy* gene encodes a chemokine receptor that expresses a red blood cell antigen that is polymorphic and found at widely different frequencies in world populations. A null allele of *FY* occurs at up to 100% frequency in African populations, whereas it is rare to nonexistent in Asian and Caucasian populations. The *FY* protein is a receptor for vivax malaria, and therefore, homozygous null individuals are resistant to infection (94). No deleterious phenotype has been ascribed to *FY* heterozygotes or homozygotes (22, 46). The *FY* allele provides an example of a selectively neutral allele whose frequency was elevated by its conferring resistance to an infectious agent.

Cystic Fibrosis and Other Diseases

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a fatal monogenic recessive disease, reaching frequencies as high as 1/1600 in Caucasian populations, corresponding to a heterozygote carrier frequency of 1/20. The disease is much less common in African, Arabic, and

Asian populations, and carrier frequencies of 1/100 to 1/200 have been calculated (32). Two pieces of genetic evidence would suggest a selective advantage for CF alleles: the geographical/population differences in the frequency of the disease, and the appearance of distinct alleles at high frequency in isolated populations. The frequency of CF is highest in Northern Europe and declines in both the South and East (137). This corresponds with the frequency of the major allele of the responsible *CFTR* gene, a deletion of three base pairs that removes the phenylalanine at position 508 ($\Delta F508$) (69). The $\Delta F508$ allele accounts for 70%–80% of CF alleles in Britain but only 40%–50% in Greece and Russia (32). However, at least two other populations have high frequency CF alleles. The W1282X allele is found at a frequency of 51% in the Ashkenazim (65). The 1677delTA allele has been found at a high frequency in Georgians and is also present at an elevated level in Turkish and Bulgarian populations (3). Because genetic drift might contribute to allele frequency elevations, even for a lethal allele, gene frequency differences alone cannot be taken as proof for a heterozygote advantage of CF alleles.

The *CFTR* gene encodes for a chloride ion channel that plays a major role in the regulation of exocrine secretions. Through the CFTR channel, bacterial toxins, such as cholera and *Escherichia coli*, cause increased fluid flow in the intestine and result in diarrhea. Several researchers have proposed that the CF mutations have been selected in response to these diseases. CF homozygotes fail to secrete chloride ions in response to a variety of stimulants, including bacterial toxins, and mice heterozygous for *CFTR* null alleles show reduced intestinal fluid secretion in response to cholera toxin (36), lending support to the infectious disease influence on CFTR allele frequencies. However, a subsequent study of *CFTR* heterozygous mice did not reveal a defect in intestinal secretion (25), and *CFTR* expression does not appear to be a rate-limiting step in chloride secretion in humans (54). An alternative hypothesis is that CFTR is involved in resistance to typhoid fever. *Salmonella typhi*, but not the related *S. typhimurium*, uses CFTR to enter epithelial cells (111). In one experiment, mice heterozygous for *Cfr-ΔF508* showed an 86% reduction in internalization of *S. typhi* into the gastrointestinal tract, relative to that in wild-type mice, and antibodies to CFTR inhibited uptake (111). Thus, selection for typhoid fever resistance provides a plausible explanation for the high frequency of *CFTR* mutations.

Ashkenazi Jewish populations have a very high frequency of several rare lysosomal storage disorders, including Tay-Sachs, Gaucher, and Neimann-Pick diseases. In each of these diseases, individual disease alleles have reached high frequency. For example, the 1277ins4 allele in *HEXA* represents 73%–79% of the Ashkenazi Tay-Sachs alleles (44). Several pieces of evidence point to a selective event(s) as the source of the high frequency of these alleles. Reduced incidence of tuberculosis among grandparents of Tay-Sachs homozygotes has been interpreted as suggestive that these higher deleterious alleles may be involved in resistance to TB (29, 102).

Selection is difficult to document in humans, as experimental intervention is limited, environmental conditions have changed dramatically in the last centuries, and many of the pathogens that severely affected human populations have been

eradicated. Also, even weak selective influences would result in a significant increase in allele frequency over many generations. Therefore, if infectious disease provides an important selective force and is responsible for the fixation of many deleterious alleles in the population, better understanding this process would seem critical.

HIV/AIDS Restriction Genes

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1), the cause of AIDS, has many advantages for the study of host genes that alter viral infection and disease (105). The AIDS pandemic is recent, widespread, and has affected several different risk groups (male homosexuals, intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs, commercial sex workers, and transfusion recipients). Studies of high-risk individuals consistently show that a subset fails to become infected, suggesting that there are some individuals with a lower risk of infection. In addition, the identification of individuals infected during their participation in a longitudinal epidemiological study has allowed the identification of acute seroconverters, which have precise dates of HIV-1 exposure and infection. This group can be studied by survival and relative hazard analyses that are highly sensitive in identifying genes that have modest effects on the rate of progression to full-blown AIDS (105). Finally, the intense research efforts on the biology of HIV-1 have identified several host proteins that are essential for viral infection and disease progression, providing plausible biological candidates for AIDS restriction genes.

The identification of chemokines as inhibitors of HIV-1 infection and the discovery that certain chemokine receptors are essential for viral infection has led to the intense study of these two classes of proteins (40). Chemokines comprise 80–100 amino acid proteins that are often secreted by damaged or infected cells (114). Receptors on the surface of lymphoid cells function to direct these cells to areas of infection and/or inflammation. A subset of chemokine receptors interact with the CD4 protein to form a complex that is recognized by the envelope protein of HIV-1 and allows the virus to fuse with the cell of the viral genome (10). Chemokines can compete for chemokine receptor binding and inhibit HIV-1 infection (18).

The primary chemokine receptors for HIV-1 are CCR5 and CXCR4 (10). Viruses that exclusively use CCR5 are known as R5 strains, and those that use CXCR4 are X4 strains. For reasons that are poorly understood, R5 strains are predominant in the initial infection of most individuals. As the infection progresses, X4 variants arise *de novo* by acquisition of new mutations in the HIV-1 envelope gene. The derivative HIV strain can spread to additional cell types, and the R5-X4 transition typically is a prelude to the rapid decline in immune function and to the appearance of AIDS.

Several groups identified a 32-bp deletion mutation in the coding region of the human *CCR5* gene that results in an inactive protein (26, 77, 119, 143). This *CCR5*- Δ 32 allele is found at frequencies of 5%–15% in Caucasian populations. Homozygotes are highly resistant to HIV-1 infection, but the protection from HIV-1

infection is not complete, as several infected *CCR5*- Δ 32 homozygous subjects have been described (104). *CCR5*- Δ 32 heterozygotes do not display a reduced risk for infection but do demonstrate a slower rate of disease progression after infection, when measured as a decline in CD4 positive T cells below 200/ml, the appearance of AIDS-defining conditions or death due to HIV-1 infection (26). Variants in the *CCR5* promoter are also associated with altered rates of AIDS progression, suggesting that the level of *CCR5* is rate-limiting for viral spread (87).

The *CCR2* gene (21) is adjacent to *CCR5* on human chromosome 3, and certain cell culture-adapted strains of HIV-1 can use *CCR2* to enter cells (23, 31). An allele of *CCR2* (*CCR2*-64I) was identified that is also associated with slower progression to AIDS (126). Because *CCR2* does not play a major role in HIV-1 infection in vivo, the role of the *CCR2*-64I allele is unclear. However, the *CCR2*-64I form of the protein may differentially interact with CXCR4 and potentially act indirectly to affect HIV-1 replication (92).

The chemokine SDF-1 is the principal ligand for CXCR4 and can inhibit infection of X4 tropic strains of HIV-1 (101). A variant in the 3' untranslated region of the *SDF1* gene (*SDF1*-3'A) that is associated with a delayed progression to AIDS was identified (140). The *SDF1*-3'A allele may be associated with altered SDF-1 protein levels, but this has not been directly demonstrated. The interleukin-10 (IL10) protein plays an inhibitory role in replication and proliferation of macrophages, T cells, and HIV-1. A variant (*IL10*-5'A) in the *IL10* promoter region that diminishes IL10 transcription is associated with accelerated progression to AIDS (122). Gel-shift experiments indicate that the *IL10*-5'A allele displays reduced binding to a nuclear protein (122). In total, six variants in chemokine, chemokine receptor, and cytokine genes (*CCR5*, *CCR5P*, *CCR2*, *SDF1*, *RANTES*, and *IL10*) account for a significant fraction of the heterogeneity in AIDS progression (90, 104, 105).

GENOME ORGANIZATION OF THE CHEMOKINE GENES

The chemokine receptors are members of the seven-transmembrane G-protein-coupled receptor (GPCR) superfamily. Like all GPCRs, the chemokine receptors have an extracellular binding domain, a set of seven-transmembrane domains and an intracellular signaling domain (79). The CC-chemokine receptor genes typically have their coding region contained in one exon and often have one or more 5' noncoding exons. The *CCR2* gene has differential use of a second exon at the 3' end. The promoters for most of the genes have not been well characterized. In the case of the *CCR5* gene, there are several potential upstream noncoding exons and transcription start sites (78, 97).

At least 12 chemokine receptor genes are present in a cluster that spans over 8 Mb from 3p22.3-3p21.31 (85) (Figure 2). The *CCR5* and *CCR2* genes are separated by only 19 kb and the *CCR1* and *CCR3* genes by ~50 kb. The region is moderately well covered by the genome sequencing projects, with only

the *CCR4* gene absent. The “private” Celera draft genome sequence has the entire region represented on a single 50.7-Mb scaffold (data not shown). All genes in the cluster have known ligands, except for *CCBP2*, a *CCR10*-related gene. The genes are of diverse origin and include both CC and CXC receptors. Most genes are facing in the same transcriptional orientation with their promoter telomeric to the 3' end. Interspersed in this cluster of chemokine receptors are many other genes that are unrelated in both sequence and function. It is interesting to note that the *TYMSTR* gene is in the intron of the *FYC01* gene, a coiled-coil domain-containing protein. Thus, multiple gene duplication and rearrangement events that have led to the generation of this locus have occurred. Many of these genes' homologues are conserved as a cluster on mouse chromosome 9 (14).

Phylogenetic analysis of the chemokine receptor genes indicates a high degree of conservation between genes. The *CCR2* and *CCR5* genes are the most closely related, and the *CCR1* and *CCR3* genes also form a closely related group (142). Interestingly, *CCR2* and *CCR5* bind to nonoverlapping sets of ligands, so they have diverged functionally while retaining considerable structural similarity. This is consistent with these two pairs of genes having been derived from a recent duplication event. Sequence analysis of the chemokine receptor genes from other primate and mammalian species demonstrates that the genes have been highly conserved, consistent with the hypothesis that they encode essential functions (142) (W. Johnson, M. Dean, & S.J. O'Brien, manuscript in preparation).

CHEMOKINE RECEPTOR POLYMORPHISMS

Many of the chemokine receptor genes have been examined extensively for genetic variation or single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) (4, 19) (Table 1). In addition to the *CCR5*- $\Delta 32$ allele, at least 20 other *CCR5* variants in the coding region of the gene are known (Table 2). Several of these variants are common, and most result in amino acid replacements. The L55Q allele replaces a conserved leucine residue for glutamine in the first transmembrane domain. This alteration results in a *CCR5* protein that has a higher affinity for the ligands RANTES and MIP1 α (56) and shows an increased frequency in HIV-1 infected subjects (M. Dean, unpublished observation). A rare nonsense mutation, C101X, in European populations (19, 113) and two frame-shift mutations in Asian populations (4) have been described. Replacement of a conserved cystine that forms a critical disulfide bond (C20S) was identified in several patients, including an HIV-1 negative, high-risk individual who was also heterozygous for *CCR5*- $\Delta 32$ (19). In vitro data confirms that the C20S is defective in both chemokine binding and HIV-1 entry (13, 56). A surprising number of the nonsynonymous variants in *CCR5* alter the function of the protein for either HIV infection or chemokine binding and response (56).

The *CCR5* promoter has also been extensively surveyed for variation, and a large number of variable sites exist (45, 74, 87, 91, 98). There is extensive linkage disequilibrium (LD) between these variants that extends at least 20 kb through the *CCR2* gene and its promoter. These LD relationships are present in all major racial

TABLE 1 Chemokine receptor genes: location and polymorphism

Gene	Alias	dbSNP	Validation	Bp change	AA change	Cyto.	Genome location ^a
CCR4		none				3p24	?
CX3CR1		rs1050592	N	C/T		3p22.3	48, 242, 307
		a	Y	G/A	V249I ^b		
		a	Y	C/T	T280M ^b		
CCR8		none				3p22.3	48, 500, 433
CCBP2	CCR9,	rs1054138	N	A/T	Q/L	3p21.33	52, 488, 537
	CCR10	rs1054139	N	A/T	Q/H		
CCR9		rs1488371	N	A/C	Intron	3p21.32	55, 642, 305
TYMSTR	STRL33	rs1386931	N	C/T	3' UTR	3p21.32	55, 690, 834
		rs936939	N	A/C	3' UTR		
CCXCR1		rs876668	N	A/G	promoter	3p21.32	55, 793, 068
CCR1		none				3p21.32	55, 944, 285
CCR3		b	Y	T/C	Y17Y ^c	3p21.31	56, 038, 921
CCR2		rs1799864	Y	G/A	V64I	3p21.31	56, 138, 349
		c	Y	C/T	N260N ^d		
		c	Y	C/T	P47L ^d		
		c	Y	G/T	V52V ^d		
		c	Y	T/G	S87A ^d		
		rs762789	N	A/G	3' flanking		
		rs1042100	N	A/G	3' UTR		
		rs743660	N	A/G	3' UTR		
		rs1042108	N	G/A	3' UTR		
CCR5		see Table 2				3p21.31	56, 151, 580
CCRL2	CCR6,	None				3p21.31	56, 188, 736
	CCRX						

^aLocation in Santa Cruz Assembly (<http://genome.ucsc.edu/>) in bp from beginning of the chromosome. CCR4 is not represented in the genome sequence.

^bDescribed in (67a).

^cDescribed in (33a).

^dDescribed in (126). Validation polymorphism is described in large-scale SNP detection/prediction efforts (N) or has been independently documented (Y).

groups, suggesting that very little recombination occurs in this genetic interval. In fact, the *CCR2* and *CCR5* genes lie at the boundary of a region that extends 5 Mb telomeric to the cluster that displays very low recombination (Figure 3).

The *CCR2*-64I allele is in nearly complete association with the 59653T variant in the *CCR5* promoter region. Common variants are also found at positions 58755, 58934, 59029, 59353, and 59356. Four haplotypes account for over 90% of the haplotypes observed (87). Although there is significant difference between large racial groups in the frequencies of these major haplotypes, the same haplotypes are present in all of the populations. The finding that varying haplotypes of the *CCR5*

TABLE 2 Genetic variants of the *CCR5* gene*

Variant	Nucleic acid substitution	Frequency African American	Frequency Caucasian	References
Promoter	58755 A/G	0.06	0.11	(87)
Promoter	58934 G/T	0.67	0.65	(87)
Promoter	59029 A/G	0.44	0.56	(87)
Promoter	59029 G/T	<0.01	<0.01	(87)
Promoter	59338 A/G	<0.01	<0.01	(87)
Promoter	59352 C/A	<0.01	<0.01	(87)
Promoter	59353 C/T	0.44	0.56	(87)
Promoter	59356 C/T	0.67	0.65	(87)
Promoter	59373 C/A	<0.01	<0.01	(87)
Promoter	59402 A/G	0.15	0.35	(87)
Promoter	59410 T/C	<0.01	<0.01	(87)
Promoter	59440 C/G	<0.01	<0.01	(87)
Promoter	59537 G/A	<0.01	<0.01	(87)
Promoter	59653 C/T	0.16	0.10	(87)
I12T	25 A/C	<0.01	0.003	(86)
C20S	58 T/A	<0.01	0.003	(86)
A29S	85 G/T	0.01	<0.01	(86)
I42F	24 A/T	<0.01	0.001	(86)
L55Q	164 T/A	0.007	0.04	(85, 86)
R60S	180 G/T	0.01	<0.01	(86)
S63C	187 A/T	<0.01	<0.01	(87)
A73V	218 C/T	<0.01	0.002	(86)
S75S	215 T/C	0.013	<0.01	(86)
C101X	303 T/A	<0.01	0.01	(86)
Δ32 (185)	Δ32	0.02	0.08	
L215S	664 C/T	<0.01	<0.01	(85)
R223Q	668 G/A	<0.01	0.01	(85, 86)
228delK	680del3	<0.01	0.002	(86)
299FS	893delC	<0.01	<0.01	(85)
V300V	900 C/A	0.004	<0.01	(86)
G301V	902 G/T	<0.01	0.01	(86)
R319H	956 G/A	<0.01	<0.01	(87)
P332P	996 C/T	<0.01	<0.01	(85)
A335V	1004 C/T	0.025	0.006	(85, 86)
Y339F	1016 A/T	0.03	<0.01	(85, 86)

*The promoter and 5' UTR variant are numbers according to BAC clone U95626. The coding region variants are numbered with bp 1 as the first base of the *CCR5* initiation codon. Variants in the *CCR5* promoter (87, 91, 97) and *CCR5* coding region (4, 19, 113) have been described previously.

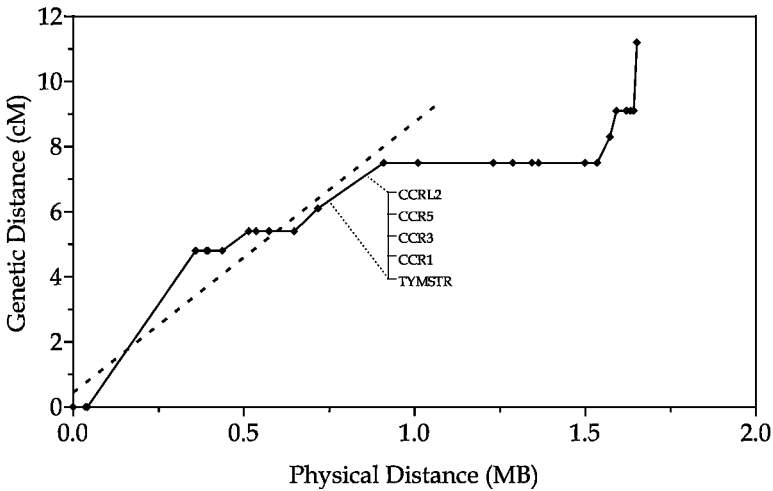


Figure 3 Genetic versus physical distance in the CCR region. A plot of genetic distance in centimorgans (cM), and physical distance in bp is shown for microsatellite markers in the CCR region. The genetic distances are from the GeneMap99 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genemap99>) and the physical distances from the Human Genome Project Working Draft. The map spans from D3S1260 to D3S2408. The location of several chemokine genes is shown. The straight line represents 1 cM/Mb.

promoter region are associated with differential progression to AIDS suggests that these haplotypes are not functionally similar. This is further supported by gel-shift experiments that show differential binding of nuclear proteins at some of these polymorphic sites (17).

The *CCR2* and other chemokine receptor genes have been less intensively interrogated; however besides *CCR2-64I*, one common synonymous variant, as well as several rare nonsynonymous variants, is present in the coding region (Table 1). The *CCR2* promoter region contains many SNPs that are also common (V. Clark, M. Dean, unpublished results). Several of the other chemokine receptor genes have at least one common nonsynonymous allele. Several of these alleles, including *CCR2-64I* and *BOB/GPF15* genes, display altered function (Table 1).

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION OF *CCR2* AND *CCR5* VARIANTS

The *CCR5-Δ32* allele is found almost exclusively in populations of European origin as well as populations that have undergone admixture with Caucasians (Table 3). In addition, the allele is found predominantly on a single haplotype, consistent with the notion that it arose once in the population, after Caucasians

TABLE 3 *CCR5-Δ32* frequency in worldwide populations

Population	+/+	+/Δ	Δ/Δ	Sum	Freq. Δ-32
Europe					
Mordvinian	58	28	0	86	0.16
Iceland	75	24	3	102	0.15
Sweden	251	74	10	335	0.14
Slovakia	22	8	0	30	0.13
Estonia	116	42	0	158	0.13
Russian	141	43	2	186	0.13
Ashkenazi	721	209	19	949	0.13
Denmark	387	104	7	498	0.12
Britain	553	142	10	705	0.11
Lithuania	220	61	2	283	0.11
Poland	694	190	7	891	0.11
Finland	228	65	0	293	0.11
West Siberian	86	13	5	104	0.11
France-Brittany	79	20	1	100	0.11
Germany	168	45	1	214	0.11
France-North	1044	229	26	1299	0.11
Czech	434	109	4	547	0.11
Norway	79	21	0	100	0.11
US Caucasian	2677	460	26	2496	0.10
Netherlands	291	73	0	364	0.10
Spain	45	11	0	56	0.10
Hungary	179	34	4	217	0.10
Spain-Murcia	81	19	0	100	0.10
South African Caucasian	118	25	1	144	0.09
Belgium	582	114	8	704	0.09
Switzerland	54	9	1	64	0.09
Austria	30	6	0	36	0.08
Sweden-Saami	101	18	1	120	0.08
Slovenia	465	88	2	555	0.08
Albania	62	10	1	73	0.08
Spain-Catalan	115	22	0	137	0.08
France-South	655	105	6	766	0.08
Italy-North	137	22	1	160	0.08
Ireland	64	11	0	75	0.07
Spain-Basque	103	14	1	118	0.07
Portugal	88	13	0	101	0.06
Caucasus-Daghestan	96	14	0	110	0.06
Italy	234	29	0	263	0.06
Bulgaria	40	4	0	44	0.05
Romania	10	1	0	11	0.05
Sardinia	92	8	0	100	0.04
Greece	537	37	1	575	0.03

(Continued)

TABLE 3 (Continued)

Population	+ / +	+ / Δ	Δ / Δ	Sum	Freq. Δ-32
Bulgaria-Gypsy	44	3	0	47	0.03
Cyprus	364	23	0	387	0.03
Georgia	50	0	0	50	0.00
Middle East					
Turkey	126	18	0	144	0.06
Israel-Sephardic	675	66	10	751	0.06
Saudia Arabia	331	10	0	341	0.01
Yemen	123	0	1	124	0.01
Lebanon	51	0	0	51	0.00
Asia					
Russia-Tatar	38	12	0	50	0.12
Russia-Udmurtia	38	7	1	46	0.10
Azerbaijan	36	4	0	40	0.05
Gujurat	30	1	1	32	0.05
Uzbekistan	27	2	0	29	0.03
Asian-American	62	4	0	66	0.03
Kazakistan	47	3	0	50	0.03
Pakistan	32	2	0	34	0.03
Russia-Uyguryi	43	2	0	45	0.02
Russia-Tuviniian	48	2	0	50	0.02
Sindh	28	1	0	29	0.02
Asian Jews	62	3	0	65	0.02
Punjab	33	1	0	34	0.01
East Siberian	214	5	0	219	0.01
India	99	1	0	100	0.01
Central Asian	106	1	0	107	0.00
Thailand	1154	7	0	1161	0.00
China	446	1	0	447	0.00
Bengal	25	0	0	25	0.00
Taiwan	425	0	0	425	0.00
Phillipines-Filipino	26	0	0	26	0.00
Philipines-Nigrino	30	0	0	30	0.00
Mongolia	59	0	0	59	0.00
Sri Lanka	37	0	0	37	0.00
Burma	67	0	0	67	0.00
Borneo	151	0	0	151	0.00
Sumatra	72	0	0	72	0.00
Andaman Islands	24	0	0	24	0.00
Kota-Kinabalu	178	0	0	178	0.00
Korea	504	0	0	504	0.00
Japan	248	0	0	248	0.00
Africa					
African-American	311	10	0	321	0.02

(Continued)

TABLE 3 (Continued)

Population	+/+	+/Δ	Δ/Δ	Sum	Freq. Δ-32
Morocco	163	3	1	167	0.01
West Africa	137	2	0	139	0.01
Nigeria	110	1	0	111	0.00
Gambia	103	0	0	103	0.00
Central African Republic	52	0	0	52	0.00
Kenya	87	0	0	87	0.00
Tanzania	7	0	0	7	0.00
Ivory Coast	87	0	0	87	0.00
Malawi	93	0	0	93	0.00
Zambia	96	0	0	96	0.00
Kalari San	36	0	0	36	0.00
Uganda	6	0	0	6	0.00
Madagascar-Merina	42	0	0	42	0.00
Madagascar-Bezanoano	16	0	0	16	0.00
Madagascar-Betsileo	42	0	0	42	0.00
Madagascar-Sihanaka	19	0	0	19	0.00
Africa	150	0	0	150	0.00
Africa-West, Central	124	0	0	124	0.00
Oceania					
Pohnpei	28	1	0	29	0.02
Australian Aborigines	96	2	0	98	0.01
Pacific Island	481	9	0	490	0.01
Guam	58	1	0	59	0.01
New Guinea Coast	96	0	0	96	0.00
French Polynesian	94	0	0	94	0.00
Fiji	17	0	0	17	0.00
Banks and Torres Islands	38	0	0	38	0.00
Vanuatu-Maewo	22	0	0	22	0.00
Vanuatu-Santo	18	0	0	18	0.00
Nauru	30	0	0	30	0.00
Majuro	29	0	0	29	0.00
Truk	30	0	0	30	0.00
Palau	30	0	0	30	0.00
Kiribati	30	0	0	30	0.00
Kapingamarangi	30	0	0	30	0.00
Tonga	36	0	0	36	0.00
Americas					
Mexico	134	11	0	145	0.04
Brazil	93	7	0	100	0.04
Puerto Rico	286	17	0	303	0.03
Columbia	207	10	1	218	0.03
Hispanic American	354	20	0	374	0.03
Haiti	82	3	0	85	0.02

(Continued)

TABLE 3 (Continued)

Population	+/+	+/ Δ	Δ/Δ	Sum	Freq. Δ -32
Nuu-Chah-Nulth	37	1	0	38	0.01
Mexico-Huicholes	52	0	0	52	0.00
Brazilian Amerindians	398	0	0	398	0.00
Jamaica	119	0	0	119	0.00
Cheyenne	20	0	0	20	0.00
Pima	40	0	0	40	0.00
Pueblo	20	0	0	20	0.00
Inuit	40	0	0	40	0.00
Total	23,091	2851	165	26107	0.06

Data derive principally from large surveys of populations (76, 80, 81, 88, 89, 127). A complete table with all references is available upon request.

diverged from other racial groups (76, 127). Within European populations, there is a significant geographic gene frequency variance in allele frequency, with the highest frequencies (12%–14%) found in Northern Europe and the lowest (4%–6%) in the South (76, 89, 127). Microsatellite markers and coalescence analysis have been used to estimate the age of currently observed *CCR5*- Δ 32-bearing haplotypes. The results indicate that the allele is of recent origin, perhaps as recent as 800 years ago (76, 127). Given the high frequency and widespread distribution of this allele, this possibility is consistent with strong selective pressure favoring an increase in *CCR5*- Δ 32 frequency. The recombination distance between *CCR5* and adjacent microsatellite markers was imputed from a regression radiation hybrid physical distance and recombination distances (127). From the current genome data, these physical distances can be refined (Figure 2) and produce an estimate of the age of *CCR5*- Δ 32-bearing haplotype as 1400 years. This estimate, however, remains tentative as it is based on an imprecise relationship of physical and recombination distance in a region of known recombination reduction (Figure 2). As such, a better estimate based on actual recombination (e.g., from sperm typing) (41) would be useful to refine the age of this haplotype.

The Ashkenazi Jewish (73a) and Tatar populations also have a high prevalence of the *CCR5*- Δ 32 allele (127) (Table 3). These ethnic groups reside in the North of Europe, adjacent to European populations with high *CCR5*- Δ 32 allele frequencies. The Tatars, native to Siberia, are of Mongolian origin, whereas the Ashkenazim are believed to have separated from the rest of the Caucasian population approximately 2000 years ago. It is tempting to speculate that a combination of admixture and a common selective force led to the increased frequency of this allele in these populations.

Because *CCR5* is the ligand for several immune response signaling molecules, an infectious agent seems more likely to be the selective agent rather than a noninfectious force, such as fertility or fetal development. Although HIV-1 is believed

to have arisen in Africa in the early twentieth century (37, 117), a related lentivirus may have been present in Europe but did not survive to the present. Lentiviruses are prevalent in most primates and other mammals, and several cross-species transmissions have been documented. Other potential selective agents include a wide range of infectious diseases, such as smallpox, tuberculosis, yellow fever, rubella, typhus, malaria, cholera, polio, and bubonic plague, which have affected European populations. Two pieces of information implicate plague as a potential source of a CCR5 mutation selection. The infectious agent that causes plague, *Y. pestis*, infects macrophages, the principal location of CCR5; and the European locale and timing of the major plague epidemics coincide with the calculated origin of the CCR5- $\Delta 32$ allele. Animal experiments with a *Ccr5*^{-/-} mouse and/or in vitro tests of human cells with alternative CCR5 genotypes will be required to validate this hypothesis.

CHEMOKINE RECEPTOR GENE AND HUMAN DISEASE

The presence of the cluster of chemokine receptor genes on chromosome 3p21-24 and the high frequency of functional alleles in these genes suggest that these genes might be good candidates as modifying or susceptibility alleles for complex diseases. Several mendelian disorders map to this region (Table 4). However, most involve deafness (DFNB6), skeletal development (ARRVD5), or encephalopathy (AS1); phenotypes not obviously linked to chemokine action. This region of chromosome 3p is subject to loss-of-heterozygosity in a large portion of small-cell lung tumors. Chemokines do play a role in the recognition of tumorigenic cells (79), and chemokine receptors might play a role in lung cancer.

The more likely candidates for CCR influence are inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Preliminary studies have shown associations between the severity of rheumatoid arthritis and the CCR5- $\Delta 32$ allele (39, 42). Higher levels of CCR5 expression on T cells have been observed in relapsing multiple sclerosis patients (5). The CCR5- $\Delta 32$

TABLE 4 Diseases in the 3p region*

Symbol	Name	Location
SCLC1	Small-cell lung cancer	3p23-21
ARRVD5	Arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia Larssen syndrome 1 (developmental, skeletal)	3p23 3p21.1-p14.1
AS1	Familial infantile encephalopathy	3p21
NCIE	Nonbullous congenital ichthyosiform erythroderma	3p21
DFNB6	Autosomal recessive deafness	3p21-p14

*Data from OMIM database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/OMIM>).

allele is not associated with multiple sclerosis (MS) susceptibility (9) but is associated with a lower risk of MS reoccurrence (120) and delayed age-of-onset (6). An association between the CCR5 deletion and asthma was reported (48) but was not confirmed in subsequent studies (96, 119a). The CCR5 deletion has also been linked to pulmonary sarcoidosis (109), and negative studies for IBD and polymyalgia rheumatica have been published (23a, 86, 113a, 118). The CCR5- Δ 32 allele was not associated with insulin dependent diabetes, whereas the CCR2-64I allele did show a modest association (128).

Although CCR5- Δ 32 homozygotes are otherwise healthy, an analysis of a cohort of homozygous hemophiliacs found slight differences in total lymphocyte counts and an increased incidence of hypertension (99). A comprehensive analysis of all of the chemokine receptor genes for variants, functional analysis of their products, and their association with disease will be required to fully elucidate the role of these genes in chronic human disease conditions.

HLA, HIV-1, AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) located on chromosome 6p21.31 contains the most polymorphic set of genes known in humans, the *HLA* class I and II loci (8, 71, 107). Products of these genes bind antigenic peptides and present them to T cells, initiating an immune response and clearance of the foreign material. The extraordinary polymorphism and balanced distribution of allelic frequencies characterizing the *HLA* loci are believed to be maintained through selective forces such as infectious disease morbidity (59, 108). Selective maintenance of MHC diversity is strongly implicated by evolutionary and theoretical data, including analyses of *HLA* allele frequency distribution in populations (49, 50), the high incidence of nonsynonymous base substitutions in regions of the genes that encode the peptide-binding domains (57, 58), persistence for millions of years of many transpecific polymorphisms (72, 129), and increased disease susceptibility in species with limited MHC diversity (11, 12, 33, 106, 139).

Heterozygote Advantage

The hypothesis of overdominant selection (heterozygote advantage) for *HLA* proposes that individuals heterozygous at *HLA* loci are able to present a greater variety of antigenic peptides than are homozygotes, resulting in a more effective immune response to a wide diversity of pathogens (30, 144). Alternatively, homozygosity at these loci would limit the repertoire of interactions between HLA molecules and T lymphocytes. Theoretically, protective effects of heterozygosity would be most obvious at a population level against a pathogen that undergoes a fairly high rate of mutation because, on the average, a mutant that is capable of escaping immune surveillance would take longer to arise in heterozygotes than it would in homozygotes at these loci (100, 103, 110).

A recent genetic epidemiological study revealing overdominant selection at the *HLA* class I loci entailed an analysis of 498 HIV-1 positive seroconverters whose infection date was known within a six-month period (20). A strong association between *HLA* class I homozygosity (at one or more loci) and rapid progression to AIDS was observed in both Caucasian and African American study cohorts. The effect was particularly striking in individuals who were homozygous at two or three loci, a situation that is usually predictive of rapid progression on an individual basis. All three class I loci appeared to contribute to the association. Similar increased rates for AIDS progression were evident among homozygotes at *HLA-A* and *HLA-B* in 140 Dutch homosexual men and 202 Rwandan heterosexual women infected with HIV-1 (130). There was a stronger association with homozygosity at the *HLA-B* locus in the Amsterdam cohort and at the *HLA-A* locus in the Rwandan cohort, consistent with previous evidence that *HLA-A* and *HLA-B* genes are subject to varying degrees of gene flow and natural selection in human populations (112). The most parsimonious explanation for these data is that heterozygotes are able to present a broader range of HIV-1 peptides, thereby prolonging the time it takes for an escape mutant to arise. Similar epidemiological benefits for DR-DQ heterozygosity in clearing hepatitis B virus has been noted (134), suggesting that the heterozygote advantage model may also apply to the *HLA* class II loci. Thus, epidemiologic data supporting a role for infectious diseases in selection for heterozygosity at the *HLA* loci is beginning to accumulate.

HLA Associations with Infectious Diseases

A search for the genetic effects of specific *HLA* class I and class II alleles on infectious diseases has been ongoing for several decades; and among the variety of associations observed (52), a few consistent findings have been identified. Although *HLA* loci are likely candidates to influence infectious disease pathogenesis, host genetic effects on most infectious diseases may well be multifactorial. The incomplete penetrance of *HLA*, along with the extreme polymorphism of these loci, necessitates the use of very large sample sizes in order to achieve adequate power for assessment. These issues have been the Achilles heel of many *HLA* and infectious disease studies, although limitations in patient clinical descriptions, failure to correct for multiple comparisons, and the low-resolution *HLA* typing methods have also added to the confusion (105).

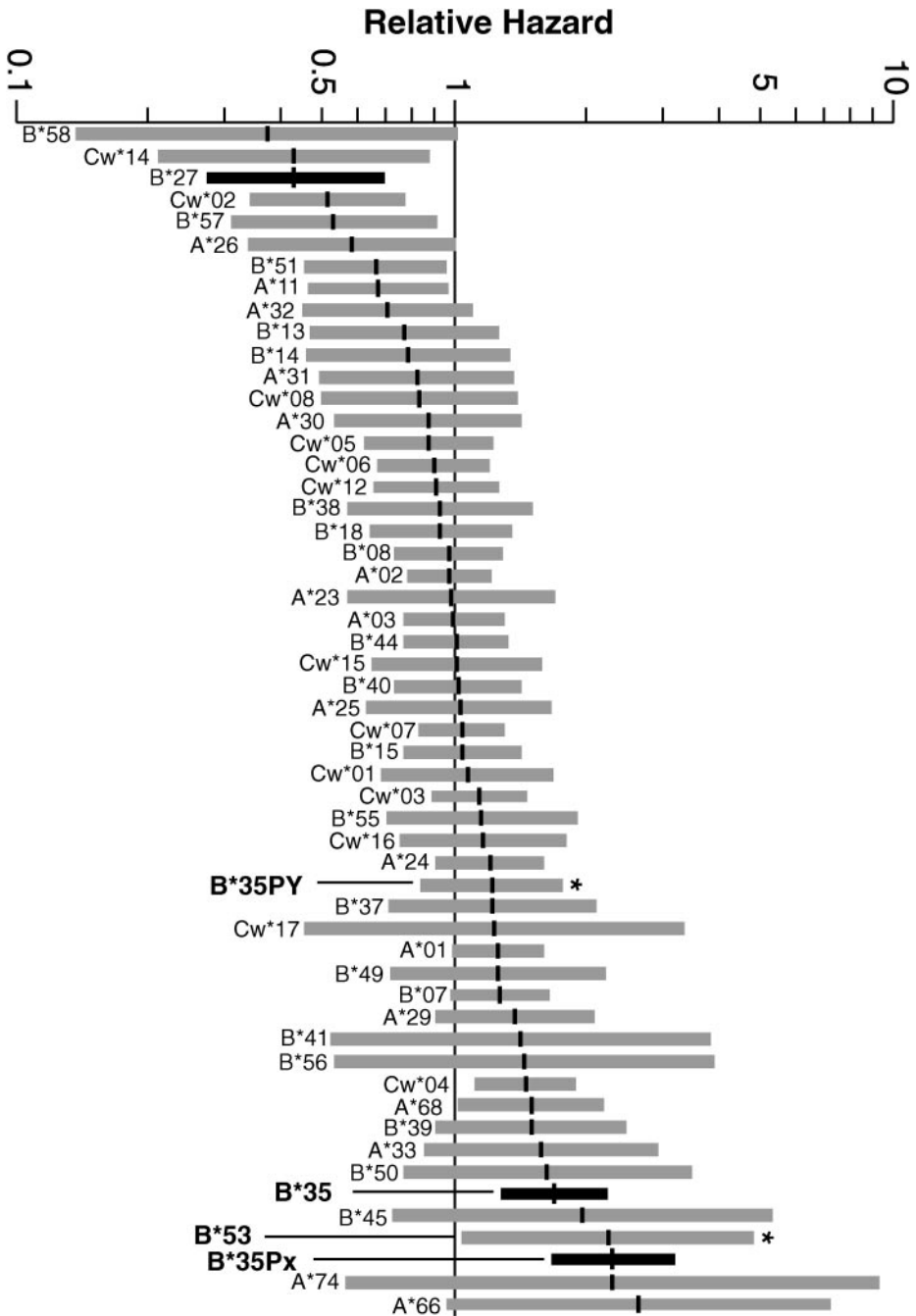
Some of the earliest work regarding *HLA* and infectious diseases involved leprosy and tuberculosis, where *HLA-DR2* associations with both diseases have been reported (15, 16, 70, 125, 135, 138). The most convincing effect of *HLA* on a nonviral infectious disease was reported for B*5301 protection from severe malaria in Gambian children (53). A protective effect of DRB1*1302 was also observed. One of the hallmarks of this study was the large sample of individuals tested, a key component in discriminating true associations from those that are spurious. No B*5301 effect was observed in a similar study of severe malaria in Kenya (52), perhaps owing to genetic differences in the malaria parasite endemic in Kenya versus in The Gambia.

HLA associations with several viral infections, including hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), human T-lymphotropic virus-I (HTLV-I), and HIV, have been reported (2, 7, 24, 55, 62, 95, 131–133). Like the protective effect against severe malaria, DRB1*1302 was associated with HBV clearance in Gambians (55, 133), and this is probably the most consistent finding among all studies of HLA effects on HBV persistence (131). The strongest HLA associations with HCV have also involved class II loci, where DQB1*0301 association with viral clearance has been replicated in a number of studies (2, 24, 95, 132), including a recent study of 200 HCV clearance and 374 matched persistently HCV-infected subjects (131a). A particularly strong association between DRB1*0101 and viral clearance in Caucasians was reported in the latter study, supporting the protective effect of this allele in a cohort of Irish women reported previously (7). DRB1*0101 was associated with disease susceptibility in carriers of HTLV-I, whereas HLA-A*02 strongly protected against HTLV-I-associated myelopathy (62). A growing number of reports convincingly indicate that development of cancer or neoplasia after infection with human papilloma virus (HPV) is also linked to specific HLA types (138a).

Over the past decade, HIV-1 disease has been the most widely studied infectious disease in terms of genetic interaction with HLA loci. Many reports describing a role for *HLA* alleles or haplotypes in HIV infection, rate of disease progression, and disease sequelae have been published (64). Among the reported effects of genetic polymorphisms on rate of progression to AIDS after HIV infection, susceptibility conferred by haplotypes composed of *Cw*04-B*35* has been the strongest and most significant (20, 61, 67, 73, 116) (Figure 4). We observed a strong effect of *B*35-Cw*04* on rapid disease progression in a study of 330 Caucasian and 144 African American seroconverters (20) and showed that the *B*35-Cw*04* haplotype has a codominant effect, in that homozygotes for this haplotype progress more rapidly than do heterozygotes and *B*35-Cw*04* heterozygotes progress more rapidly than individuals without this haplotype (20).

Recently, the effect of the *B*35-Cw*04* haplotype had been attributed to a subset of *B*35* alleles, excluding the most common subtype, *B*3501* (38) (Figure 4). A total of 592 Caucasians and 219 African Americans were typed using high-resolution techniques. *B*35* subtypes were divided into two groups based on peptide binding specificity: (a) *B*35-PY* group, consisting primarily of *B*3501*, which recognizes epitopes with proline in position 2 and tyrosine in position 9; and (b) a more broadly reactive *B*35-Px* group (*B*3502*, *3503*, *3504*, and the closely

Figure 4 Associations of HLA class I types with progression to AIDS. Relative hazard (RH) values were determined for each of the 54 *HLA* types used. Bars represent 95% confidence intervals (CI) for each RH. Class I types with CI that cross the line representing a RH of 1 are not significant, whereas all others are significant at $p < 0.05$. All *B*35* alleles combined are significantly associated with progression to AIDS, as is *B*53*. However, *B*35PY*, a subset of the *B*35* group of alleles, is not significant, whereas the *B*35Px* subgroup is strongly associated with AIDS progression.



related B*5301 allele) that binds epitopes with proline in position 2 but accepts several different amino acids, excluding tyrosine, at position 9. Survival analysis indicated that the accelerating influence of B*35 on progression to AIDS was completely attributable to the B35-Px alleles, some of which differ from B*35-PY alleles by only one amino acid residue. This study leaves little doubt as to the inadequacy of B*35-Px in controlling HIV-1 disease, relative to other alleles, and affirms the importance of distinct epitope specificity of closely related class I molecules in immune defense against HIV-1.

Viral epitopes for both B*3501 and Cw*04 molecules have been identified (63, 115, 121, 136), but no viral epitopes have been reported for the other B35 subtypes (Los Alamos HIV Molecular Immunology Database, <http://iv-web.lanl.gov/immunology>). Given the association of the B*35-Cw*04 alleles with progression to AIDS, it will be interesting to determine whether these alleles are inferior in some way in inducing a productive CTL response. Preliminary data suggest that the strength of the total CTL response cannot account for the rapid progression to AIDS in these individuals (X. Jin, unpublished data). Perhaps a qualitative distinction in CTL activity accounts for the difference in rate of progression to AIDS between individuals with B*35-Cw*04, relative to other haplotypes.

*HLA-B*27* was predicted to be protective against HIV-1 because it presents an HIV-1 peptide epitope that does not readily undergo mutation (43, 68a, 110). A recent analysis of 592 seroconverters in our AIDS cohorts indicated that, indeed, B*27 has a protective effect on progression to AIDS (RH = 0.43, $p = 0.001$), although this was not significant after correction for multiple tests (38). A high frequency of *HLA-B*57* was recently reported in a group of 13 HIV-positive long-term nonprogressors (85%), relative to individuals with progressive disease (9.5%) (93), in agreement with previous epidemiologic reports (67, 68). This association with protection was supported by genetic data derived from the 592 seroconverters (RH = 0.55, $p = 0.04$), though this was not significant after correction (38). Many other associations between *HLA* haplotype and the rate of HIV disease progression have been reported, but most of these findings have been difficult to confirm in independent or combined cohorts.

Genetic data have also suggested a protective role for *HLA* in HIV infection and transmission. Concordance of *HLA* class I types between mother-infant pairs was associated with a stepwise increase in the risk of perinatal HIV-1 transmission with each additional concordant allele (82). The *HLA* A2/6802 supertype, a group of alleles sharing binding preference for some peptide epitopes (27, 123, 124), was also associated with decreased risk of perinatal HIV-1 infection (83). A subset of this group of alleles had previously been found in significantly higher frequency in a group of highly exposed HIV-1 negative female sex workers from Nairobi, relative to the HIV-1 positive individuals in the same cohort (84). DRB1*01 was also associated with resistance to infection in this group. These data provide further evidence supporting the importance of an immunologically mediated mechanism of resistance to HIV-1.

Thus, the advent of molecular typing techniques and organization of large, clinically well-defined cohorts have begun to shed light on the complex genetic

relationship between infectious diseases and genes residing within the MHC. The growing body of literature clarifying the genetic effects of HLA on infectious diseases is beginning to illustrate the opposing selection pressures on particular alleles, as one might hypothesize for B*5301, where positive and negative pressure owing to malaria and HIV-1 disease, respectively, appear to exist. The genetic data regarding HLA effects on HIV-1 pathogenesis complement the wealth of cellular data that have been reported, and together, they strongly emphasize the critical influence of this locus on controlling HIV disease.

PERSPECTIVE

Both chemokine receptors and HLA proteins play critical roles in the immune response and provide an opportunity to understand the influence of pathogens on the evolution of the human genome. As described above, both gene clusters are large, contain many duplicated genes, and have interesting patterns of variation and LD. Much more work needs to be done on the CCR region, including completion of the sequence, identification of variation (SNPs), functional analysis of SNPs, and assessment of association to disease and LD. It is likely that much more evidence will be found for influence of the CCR genes on pathogen resistance and complex genetic disease.

Although a diverse and powerful immune response to foreign agents and damaged/mutated cells is desirable, it is becoming clear that this is a double-edged sword. The immune response against infected or damaged cells can lead to inflammation that over time can lead to medical complications. In addition, autoimmune reactions are important contributors to diseases such as lupus, arthritis, diabetes, etc. The development of vaccines and antibiotics against many of the most deadly human pathogens has resulted in a greatly decreased mortality rate and an increase in the average life span. At the same time, there is a greatly increasing frequency of many diseases with an inflammatory or autoimmune component (NIDDM, MS, etc.). The immune mechanisms that allowed our species to survive until the present may have contributed to a number of common complex diseases. Thus, a better understanding of the role of immune response genes, their evolution and variation, is likely to benefit the understanding of infectious disease as well as many other disorders.

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